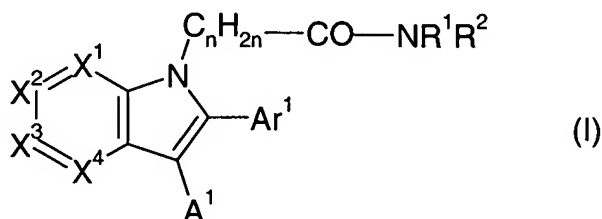


IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (original) A compound of formula (I):



wherein

Ar¹ is a moiety containing at least one aromatic ring and possesses 5-, 6-, 9- or 10- ring atoms optionally containing 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, which ring is optionally substituted at any substitutable position by groups Q¹ and Q²;

Q¹ is halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, CONR^cR^d, C_mH_{2m}NR^cR^d, -O-(CH₂)₂₋₄NR^cR^d, -O-C_mH_{2m}CONR^cR^d, -O-C_mH_{2m} aryl, -O-C_mH_{2m} heteroaryl, -O-CHR^eR^f;

R^c and R^d are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl and C(O)C₁₋₄ alkyl;

or R^c, R^d and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, where said ring is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3

R^e and R^f are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

or R^e and R^f are linked by a heteroatom selected from N, O and S to form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, where said ring is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

and wherein said C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy and aryl groups are optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxy;

Q² is halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy, where said C₁₋₄ alkyl and C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups are optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxyl;

or Q¹ and Q² may be linked by a bond or a heteroatom selected from N, O and S to form a ring of 4 to 7 atoms, where said ring is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

A¹ is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, where said C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₂₋₆ alkenyl groups are optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkoxy or up to 5 fluorine atoms, or a non-aromatic ring of 3 to 8 ring atoms where said ring may contain a double bond and/or may contain a O, S, SO, SO₂ or NH moiety and where said ring is optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups of up to 2 carbon atoms or by 1 to 8 fluorine atoms, or a non-aromatic bicyclic moiety of 4 to 8 ring atoms which ring may be optionally substituted by fluorine or hydroxy;

X¹ is N or CR^a;

X² is N or CR³;

X³ is N or CR⁴;

X⁴ is N or CR^b;

with the proviso that X² and X³ are not both N;

R^a and R^b are each independently selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy, where said C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl and C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups are optionally substituted by hydroxy or fluorine;

one of R³ or R⁴ is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, CN, CO₂H, CO₂C₁₋₄ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or C(O)NR⁹R¹⁰, where said C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by hydroxy or fluorine;

R⁹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl or (CH₂)₀₋₃R¹² or SO₂R¹¹;

R¹² is NR^hRⁱ, OR^h, aryl, heteroaryl, indolyl or Het;

R^h and Rⁱ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

Het is a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, which ring may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O or S or a group S(O), S(O)₂, NH or NC₁₋₄ alkyl;

R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl or (CH₂)₀₋₃R¹³;

R¹³ is aryl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, Het or NR^mRⁿ, wherein Het is as hereinbefore defined, R^m and Rⁿ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl and CO₂(CH₂)₀₋₃aryl, and wherein R¹³ is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl or NR^oR^p, wherein R^o and R^p are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl; and where R¹⁰ is optionally substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, C₁₋₄ alkyl, =O, CO₂H or CO₂C₁₋₄ alkyl;

or R⁹, R¹⁰ and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, where said ring is optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, =O, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

the other of R³ and R⁴ is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy, where said C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl and C₁₋₄ alkoxy groups are optionally substituted by hydroxy or fluorine;

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R¹ and R² are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₁₋₆ alkynyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₄ alkyl, (CH₂)₀₋₃R¹⁴;

R¹⁴ is aryl, heteroaryl, NR^qR^r, Het, where Het is as hereinbefore defined;

R^q and R^r are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₄ alkyl;

or R^q, R^r and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms;

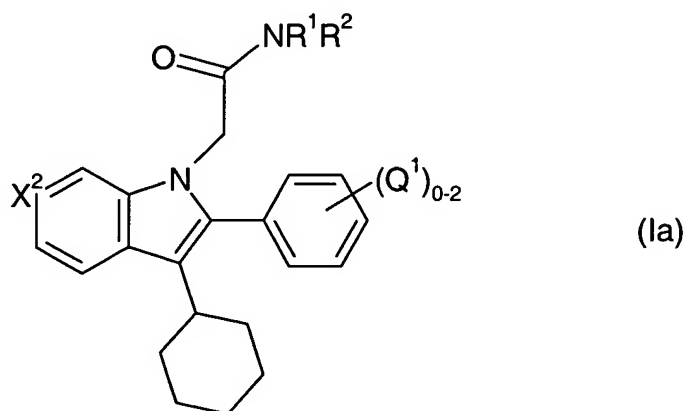
and R¹ and R² are optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, =O, C(O)C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl;

or R¹, R² and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms, which ring optionally contains 1, 2 or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from O and S or a group S(O), S(O)₂, NH or NR^s, where R^s is C₁₋₄ alkyl or heteroaryl, or said heteroaliphatic ring is fused to or substituted by a spiro-fused five- or six-membered nitrogen-containing heteroaliphatic ring, which heteroaliphatic ring is optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, (CH₂)₀₋₃NR^tR^u, aryl, heteroaryl, or a -CH₂- or -CH₂CH₂- alkylene bridge, where aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

R^t and R^u are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl and C(O)C₁₋₄ alkyl,

or R^t, R^u and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heteroaliphatic ring of 4 to 7 ring atoms optionally substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) A compound of formula (Ia):



wherein Q¹, X², R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 selected from:
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(4-methylphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-hydroxypyrimidin-5-yl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-furyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-{6-carboxy-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1*H*-indol-2-yl}pyridinium trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid hydrochloride,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[1-(5-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-2-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[(5-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid trifluoroacetate,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-6-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-methyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*b*]pyridine-5-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-{3-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]phenyl}-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)prop-2-en-1-yl]-2-(2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-7-yl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(3-furyl)-1*H*-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-*N*-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-(benzylsulfonyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
1-{[5-carboxy-3-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl]acetyl}-*N,N*-dimethylpiperidin-4-aminium trifluoroacetate,
1-{[5-carboxy-3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-furyl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl]acetyl}-*N,N*-dimethylpiperidin-4-aminium trifluoroacetate,
(4-{[6-carboxy-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl]acetyl}morpholin-2-yl)-*N,N*-dimethylmethanaminium trifluoroacetate,
1-{2-[benzyl(methyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-3-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
1-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(7-methyl-2,7-diazaspiro[4.4]non-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
1-[2-(benzylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-3-cyclohexyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[(3*R*,4*R*)-4-hydroxy-1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-3-thienyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(3-pyridin-3-ylpyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[1-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(6-methoxypyridin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-pyridin-4-yl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{3-[(dimethylamino)methyl]piperidin-1-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]piperidin-1-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
(1-pyridin-4-ylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-oxo-2-{[(1-piperidin-1-ylcyclopentyl)methyl]amino}ethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(2-pyridin-4-ylpyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[(1S,4S)-5-methyl-2,5-diazabicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(hexahydropyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazin-2(1H)-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(prop-2-yn-1-ylamino)ethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[(2-morpholin-4-ylethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[methyl(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[2-(diisopropylamino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-thienyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

2-[4-(aminocarbonyl)phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-[3-(acetylamino)phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-[3-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-methylphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-methoxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{3-[(dimethylamino)methyl]piperidin-1-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-{2-[methyl(phenyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]ethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]ethyl]-2-pyridin-4-yl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
1-(2-{[(1-acetylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-2-pyridin-4-yl-1H-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[3-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxethyl](methyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(hexahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazin-2(1*H*)-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclopentyl-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclopentyl-1-(2-{[(1-ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-2-{4-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethoxy]phenyl}-1-{2-[methyl(pyrazin-2-ylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

2-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{[(1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-3-thienyl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

2-biphenyl-3-yl-3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

2-(2-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(5-fluoro-2-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(3-thienyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

2-[4-(benzyloxy)phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(4-isopropoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-[3-(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl](methyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,
1-[2-(2-{[acetyl(methyl)amino]methyl}morpholin-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-[2-(1,1-dioxidothiomorpholin-4-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)ethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-{2-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl}-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclopentyl-1-(2-{[(1-ethyl-5-oxopyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-5-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-pyrimidin-5-yl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(4-methyl-1,4-diazepan-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(4-isopropylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-oxo-2-(3-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-oxo-2-piperazin-1-ylethyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-furyl)-1-[2-oxo-2-(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]morpholin-4-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-furyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
1-[2-(4-azetidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-3-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-[2-oxo-2-(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(diethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-2-{3-[(dimethylamino)methyl]phenyl}-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-{3-[(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)oxy]phenyl}-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,

3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*b*]pyridine-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(1-naphthyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(2-naphthyl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-1*H*,1'*H*-2,5'-bisindole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(8-methylquinolin-4-yl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxylic acid,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-methyl-1-[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[(4-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N,N*-dimethyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-isopropyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-allyl-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-6-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)carbonyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-*N*-(tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(1,1-dioxidotetrahydro-3-thienyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(2-furylmethyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)methyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-*N*,2-diphenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-benzyl-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
4-{[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-6-yl]carbonyl}piperazin-2-one,

3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-(2-morpholin-4-ylethyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-*N*-[2-(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)ethyl]-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-{[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-6-yl]carbonyl}-5-hydroxy-*L*-tryptophan,
3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-*N*-[2-(1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl)ethyl]-1*H*-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-{3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-6-yl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N*-methyl-*N*-[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]acetamide,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-phenyl-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N*-[(1-methylpyrrolidin-3-yl)methyl]acetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(2-methylphenyl)-1*H*-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1*H*-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
2-{3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-[3-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-indol-1-yl}-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,
3-{3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{3-[(dimethylamino)methyl]piperidin-1-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-[3-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-1*H*-indol-6-yl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4*H*)-one,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1*H*-indol-2-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylbenzamide,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1*H*-indol-1-yl]-*N,N*-dimethylacetamide,

2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
3-(2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-1H-indol-6-yl)-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]morpholin-4-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(3-furyl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]morpholin-4-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-furyl)-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(3-furyl)-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]morpholin-4-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-(5-methyl-2-furyl)-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
3-{3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-[5-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-2-furyl]-1H-indol-6-yl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-2-pyridin-3-yl-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]piperidin-1-yl}-2-oxoethyl)-2-pyridin-3-yl-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
3-[3-cyclohexyl-1-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}-2-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1H-indol-6-yl]-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5(4H)-one,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-(2-methoxypyridin-4-yl)-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
2-[3-cyclohexyl-2-{2-[2-(dimethylamino)ethoxy]pyridin-4-yl}-6-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-indol-1-yl]-N,N-dimethylacetamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-(methylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-(3-furyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,

3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-(6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-N-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-(2-morpholin-4-yl-2-oxoethyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-(isopropylsulfonyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-(propylsulfonyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-[(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfonyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
benzyl (2-[[[3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indol-6-yl]carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl)ethyl)carbamate,
N-[(2-aminoethyl)sulfonyl]-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-N-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]sulfonyl}-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-[(2-phenylethyl)sulfonyl]-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-(benzylsulfonyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-(benzylsulfonyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-(2-{methyl[(1-methylpiperidin-3-yl)methyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
N-(benzylsulfonyl)-3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-(3-furyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-(phenylsulfonyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-N-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2-phenyl-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-(pyridin-3-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
3-cyclohexyl-1-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]-2-phenyl-N-(3-thienylsulfonyl)-1H-indole-6-carboxamide,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (canceled)

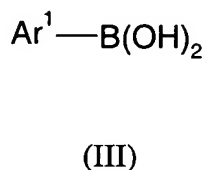
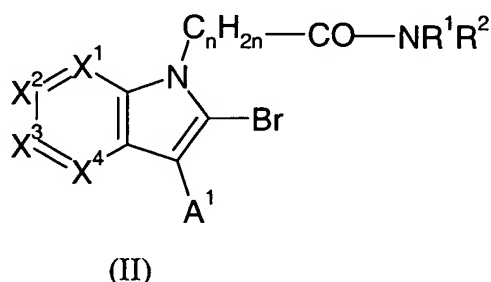
5. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of illness due to hepatitis C virus, which method comprises administration to a subject suffering from the condition a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (canceled)

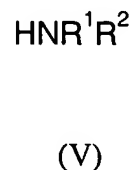
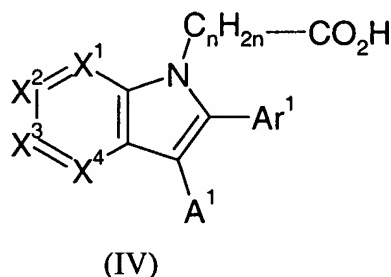
8. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ which comprises: either

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (III):



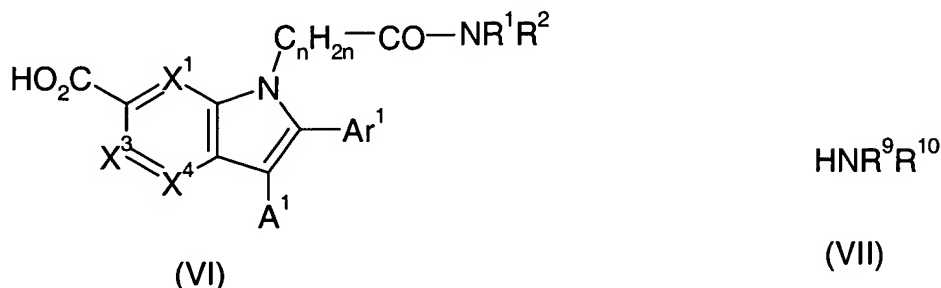
wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , R^1 , R^2 , A^1 and Ar^1 are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of a Pd(0) catalyst under conditions typical for the Suzuki reaction;

(B) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V):



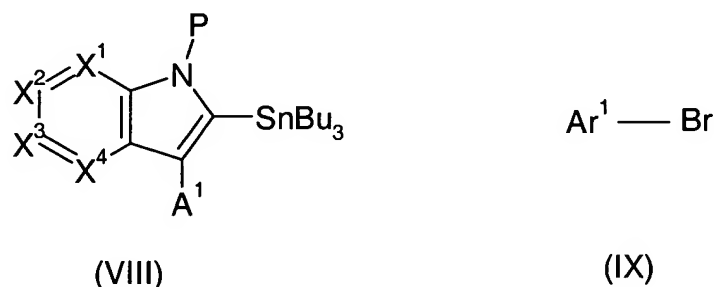
wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , A^1 , Ar^1 , n , R^1 and R^2 are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of a coupling reagent and a base;

(C) where X^2 is CR^3 and R^3 is $C(O)NR^9R^{10}$, reacting a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (VII):



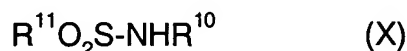
wherein X^1 , X^3 , X^4 , A^1 , Ar^1 , n , R^1 , R^2 , R^9 and R^{10} are as defined in Claim 1, essentially in the same manner as general process (B);

(D) where the (aza)indolyl nitrogen atom is suitably protected, reacting a compound of formula (VIII) with a compound of formula (IX):



where P is a suitable protecting group and wherein X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , X^4 , A^1 and Ar^1 are as defined in Claim 1, effected in the presence of a Pd(0) catalyst, a suitable ligand and a salt in a suitable solvent at a temperature between 20°C and the reflux temperature of the solvent; or

(E) where X^2 is CR^3 and R^3 is $C(O)NR^9R^{10}$ and R^9 is SO_2R^{11} , reacting a compound of formula (VI) with a compound of formula (X):



wherein X^1 , X^3 , X^4 , A^1 , Ar^1 , n , R^1 , R^2 , R^{10} and R^{11} are as defined in Claim 1, in the presence of an activator and/or a dehydrating agent in a suitable solvent.

9. (new) A method of inhibiting hepatitis C virus polymerase which comprises administering to a subject in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound of according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (new) A compound according to claim 2, wherein:

X² is CR³;

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or CH₂Het;

R² is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

or alternatively R¹, R² and the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a five- or six-membered heteroaliphatic ring, which ring optionally contains one additional oxygen atom or a group NRS, which ring is optionally substituted by (CH₂)₀₋₃NR^tR^u; and

Q¹ is halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or C₁₋₄ alkoxy.

11. (new) A compound according to claim 10, wherein:

R³ is CO₂H, heteroaryl, or C(O)NR⁹R¹⁰;

R⁹ is hydrogen or methyl;

R¹⁰ is SO₂R¹¹; and

R¹¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, trifluoromethyl, CH₂CF₃, methoxyphenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, or (CH₂)₂ phenyl.